

From Chattanooga, on I-75 take Exit 3-A (E. Brainerd Rd.). Travel 8 miles east on Brainerd Road; turn right on London Lane for 2.3 miles. Continue traveling straight on to Keith Road for .5 mile; turn left on Mt. Vernon Road and travel for 4 miles. Turn left on Old Apison Road, travel for .7 miles. Turn left on Red Clay Park Road and travel 1.5 miles to the park.

RED CLAY

Hours of Operation

March through November: 8:00 a.m. until sunset.

December through February: 8:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.

Park closed December 25; Visitor's Center closed December 20 through January 1.

For Further Information, Contact

Red Clay State Historic Area / 1140 Red Clay Park Rd., S.W.
Cleveland, TN 37311 / Phone (423) 478-0339

Or Contact

Tennessee State Parks / 401 Church St., 7th Floor / Nashville, TN 37243
Phone (888) 867-2757 / www.tnstateparks.com



Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation authorization no. 327152, 10,000 copies. This public document was promulgated at a cost of \$.04 per copy, November 2005.

The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation is committed to principles of equal opportunity, equal access and affirmative action. Contact the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation EEO/AA coordinator at (888) 867-2757 or the ADA Coordinator at (615) 592-0059 for further information. Hearing impaired callers may use the Tennessee Relay Service at (800) 848-0288.

TENNESSEE STATE PARKS RED CLAY STATE HISTORIC AREA





Red Clay State Historic Area

located in southeast Tennessee on the Tennessee-Georgia border encompasses 260 acres of forested ridges and narrow valleys formerly used as cotton and pasture land. The site contains: a natural landmark, the great council spring or blue hole, which rises from beneath a limestone ledge to form a deep pool that flows into Mill Creek. The spring was used by the Cherokee for their water supply during council meetings.

Historical Significance

Red Clay served as the seat of Cherokee government from 1832 until the forced removal of the Cherokee in 1838. By 1832, the State of Georgia had stripped the Cherokee of their political sovereignty, and had banned all political activity in Georgia. As a result, the Cherokee capital was moved from New Echota, Georgia, to Red Clay, Tennessee. Here, at Red Clay, the Trail of Tears really began, for here the Cherokee learned that they had lost their mountains, streams, and valleys forever.

Gift Shop

Inventory includes books on Cherokee history and culture, Cherokee videos, replicas of arrowheads, Red Clay T-shirts, Red Clay patches, and other native American educational materials.

Picnic Pavilion

One picnic pavilion seats 100 people and includes a large grill, fireplace, drink vending machine, and restrooms. Reservations are recommended, especially on weekend days and holidays. If the shelter is not reserved for the day, it may be used on a first-come basis.

Hiking

Over three miles of hiking trails ranging from easy paved trails to a moderate, marked trail that goes up and downhill through the woods.

Visitor's Center

The James F. Corn Interpretive Center is open daily, except December 20 through January 1st. This facility includes exhibits on the 19th Century Cherokee, the Trail of Tears, Cherokee art, and Prehistory.

Planned Programs

Programs for children, youth and adults are scheduled year round. Our primary programs include (1) Walking tour of the Cherokee council grounds and replicas of the 1830's, (2) Cherokee blowgun demonstration, and (3) Introduction to Red Clay and the Cherokee of the 1830's. Other programs such as "Walking in Their Footsteps: A Nature Walk to Learn From The Cherokee" and "Seeing Through Their Eyes: An Introduction to Native Cultures of North America" are available upon consultation with Red Clay's programmers.

Amphitheatre

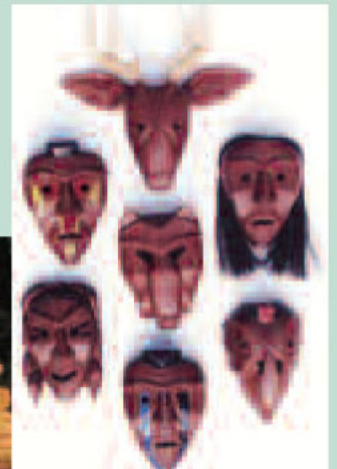
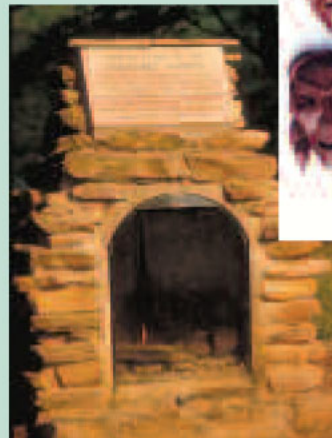
Red Clay's Amphitheatre seats 500 people and may be reserved for a small fee. Electrical outlets are available for use for musical and/or theatrical activities.

Other Nearby State Parks

- Harrison Bay State Park, 21 miles
- Booker T. Washington State Park, 20 miles

Annual Event

- Cherokee Days of Recognition, 1st weekend of August



Masks represent the 7 Cherokee Clans